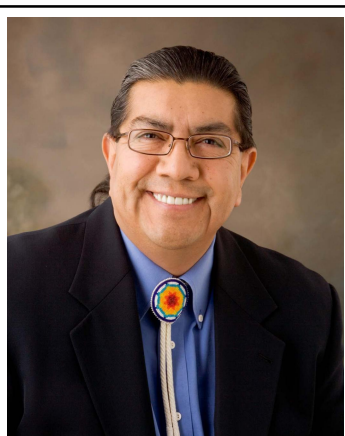


Utah Division of Indian Affairs

Tribal Leaders Newsletter Report

February 22, 2008



The primary service provided by UDIA is **Information and Referral**.

This includes:

- General information about Utah's American Indians and tribes
- Presentations to various sectors: public, private, schools
- Publication and distribution of information
- Speaker's Bureau
- Web site: www.indian.utah.gov

*Division of Indian Affairs
Powerpoint

Comments from the Executive Director, Division of Indian Affairs:

This past November exhibited one of the more successful "Indigenous Heritage Month" celebrations. There were so many Indian related events taking place, it had to have raised awareness about Utah's American Indians to a high degree. I was very proud of how schools and colleges have gotten behind this monthly celebration to bring attention to the plight of the American Indians of Utah. Thanks to all of you who supported these events. We are creating more awareness and understanding each time we sponsor and participate in such events. And Thanks to you tribal leaders for establishing such an annual event for the Indian people. We in the Division, look forward to working with you as we enter a new period of progress and sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ernest A. Cook".

American Indian Digitization Project:

This past year the Utah Legislature appropriated \$1.3 million to the Department of Community and Culture for digitization purposes, primarily projects awarded on the basis of merit and quality of proposal. Division applied for and was awarded an \$80,000 grant. The Division is in pursuit of this project partnership with the University of Utah American West Center and Marriott Library - Special Collections Section. Under this project, we will be digitizing such historical documents as our recent history book, oral histories such as the Duke Collection, and numerous other research and historical documents. Both the Division of Indian Affairs and U of U Marriott Library have allocated funds for this project.

Indigenous Day Dinner and Awards Ceremony:

As most of you know, this event held November 20, 2007 on the 23rd Floor of the Wells Fargo Building was a wonderful success. There were just few than 200 attendees present. Awards were presented to 15 outstanding individuals. Those who attended enjoyed traditional foods - delicious roasted buffalo with Indian potatoes, sometimes referred to as "Ground nuts", with trout gracing the salad.

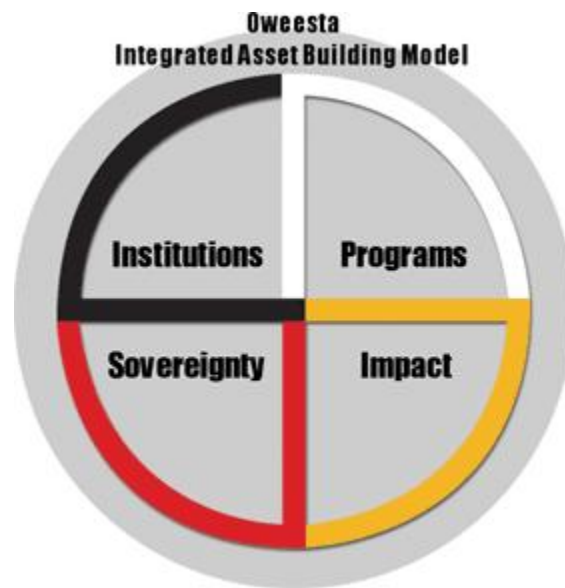


Eileen Quintana's Nebo School District Title VII project provided entertainment along with Nino Reyes on flute.



Housing Update:

We are pleased to announce that the Utah American Indian Housing Advisory Board has shortened its name to the Utah Indian Housing Council, and is currently working on producing a feasibility study regarding the advantages for Utah Indian Housing if the Council becomes a non-profit organization. UIHC is considering a contract with Oweesta. Oweesta helps build strong Native institutions and programs through professional services designed to build local capacity and provide powerful tools for Native community development. Based on the Oweesta Integrated Asset Building Model, their primary programs and services are: Training, Technical Assistance & Consulting, capitalization, and research, policy & advocacy.



Repatriation of Human Remains:

The Utah Division of Indian Affairs, in partnership with the Division of State History and other interested state agencies, including UDOT, National Guard, State Parks, and the Public Lands Policy Coordination Office has been reworking Rule 230, the Rule associated with the Native American Remains Protection and Repatriation Act. We have produced a process that will allow the Division to inter the remains without a claim needing to be filed. The Native American Remains Review Committee has an important role in determining lineal descent, cultural affiliation, and aboriginal land claims and the new rule changes emphasize the need for agencies to seek consultation with tribes through the Division of Indian Affairs when developing reports as well as the need for tribal participation in cemetery selection.

The Division of Indian Affairs has also been asked by the Bureau of Reclamation to facilitate a negotiation between the Zuni and the Utah tribes regarding the Bureau's decision to repatriate the Fremont remains in their possession to the Zuni. The Zuni would like to turn those remains over to the Utah tribes for respectful interment.

Indian Caucus Day at the Legislature:

This year's Caucus Day was the most successful of all previous events. First came a breakfast meeting followed by introductions in both chambers of the Legislature. We had close to 50 legislators attend and participate in our day long activities. School children from the Montezuma Elementary School braved the stormy southern Utah roads to provide dancing and singing entertainment for the Legislators. They stole the show. The meeting with the Governor later that afternoon proved to be rewarding and beneficial to all.



Native American Summit

This year's Native American Summit will be held on **September 24 & 25**, in Vernal, Utah, at the Western Park Convention Center, and will be hosted by the Ute Tribe. It will continue last year's focus on economic development, education, and health issues. Progress continues with each of the committees assigned to these topics, with the addition of Jane Shock, from American Express's Center for Community Development, taking the role of Committee Chair for the economic development committee. We appreciate her efforts and look forward to this year's summit.

Native American Legislative Liaison Committee November 2007 meeting:

Many of you participated in the NALLC meeting of November 27, 2007. Human remains and native language dominated these discussions. These discussions lead to the sponsorship of the following bills: SB235 Human Remains Related Amendments by Senator Kevin VanTassell, clarification of 2007 legislation (SB204 by Darrin Peterson); Appropriation of funds for Indigenous Heritage Language Program, a program to strengthen Utah American Indian languages and achievement in school; and Appropriation for KUED sponsored "We Shall Return" documentaries on five Utah tribes and accompanying curriculum.

We Shall Remain:

As reported in the previous newsletter, the trailer advertising the "We Shall Remain" production has continued to be aired on Channel 7, KUED. Ken Verdoia (Producer) and the production crew at KUED did an outstanding job in designing and producing the trailer for the Utah series. As you may know, KUED camera crews have been in contact with some of you and have scheduled filming on the reservations. Some of the crews have already begun taping on the reservations.

U of U American Indian Resource Center:

In November, Ms. Beverly Fenton (Ojibwa) was selected and appointed as director of the American Indian Resource Center, currently located within the Fort Douglas complex, on the campus of the University of Utah. Ms. Fenton has held other positions at the University of Utah. She has also worked for Colorado State University located in Fort Collins, Colorado. As you may know, this is the first year the University has funded this position. We are happy to have her on board.